

CONCEPT REVIEW

National Toxicology Program Board of Scientific Counselors

November 21, 2008

Background For Concept Review

NTP contracts, interagency agreements, and grants support a variety of activities toxicologic characterization, testing, methods development, and program resources (i.e., chemistry, occupation health and safety, animal production, pathology, quality assurance, archives, etc.)

Prior to issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) or a Request for Application (RFA), a project concept review is required. These project concepts in many instances may consist of more than one contract, interagency agreement, or grant. Concept reviews are needed for new projects, re-competitions with changes in statements of work, and projects ongoing for five years or more since the last concept review.

The project concept reviews are conducted by the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors and are open to the public so long as discussions are limited to review of the general project purposes, scopes, goals, and various optional approaches to pursue the overall program objectives. The meeting will be closed to the public, however, if the concept discussions turn to the development or selection of details of the projects or RFPs/RFAs, such as specific technical approaches, protocols, statements of work, data formats, or product specifications. Closing the session is intended to protect the free exchange of the advisory group members' opinions and to avoid premature release of details of proposed contract projects or RFPs/RFAs.

The BSC Members are asked to review the project concepts for overall value and scientific relevance as well as for fulfilling the program goal of protecting public health. Specific areas should include:

- a. scientific, technical or program significance of the proposed activity;
- b. availability of the technology and other resources necessary to achieve required goals;
- c. extent to which there are identified, practical scientific or clinical uses for the anticipated results; and
- d. where pertinent, adequacy of the methodology to be used in performing the activity.